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Crumpled: The scene of the smash in Kingston's one way system last July

Deadlinepix KT77760

BAN CRASH WALLOP

Bus smash BMW driver off roads for six-months

'Spooked': Driver Shibo Li

Deadlinepix KT77760

by JON SHARMAN

jon.sharman@london.newsquest.co.uk

A BMW driver who drove the wrong way across Kingston's one-way system, hit three pedestrians and crashed into a double-decker bus last summer has been disqualified from driving.

Shibo Li, 49, who runs Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture in Fife Road, admitted driving without due care and attention when he appeared at Lavender Hill Magistrates' Court in December.

After the crash outside Kingston station a woman was airlifted from Cromwell Road bus station with severe leg injuries.

Two other pedestrians were taken to Kingston Hospital – one of them a refugee from Syria.

Li told the Guardian this week: "I still wish everybody the best. It's a very unfortunate thing. I had a good intention to avoid the accident. I must accept some responsibility."

Li originally blamed a female cyclist who he said had "spooked" him after a collision in Fife Road.

He said the day after the crash last July: "I was panicked and lost control of the car."

The woman was injured after going across the car's bonnet, according to court papers.

He said this week: "It's not always the big car or the lorries' fault to have an accident. Sometimes people have no time to react.

"They [cyclists and motorcyclists] take risks.

"If you are cycling very fast then people have to stop there to give way. They shouldn't cycle very fast and they would have time to stop too."

Magistrates disqualified Li, of Melrose Avenue, Wimbledon, from driving for six months and fined him £300 after his appearance on December 10.

Online, Chasmeister tweeted: "Scary to think he could be driving again in six months". And SW33tchilly tweeted: "He should be banned of [sic] the streets."

But another agreed with what Mr Li about "freeloader cyclists."

❑ What do you think? Email letters@kingstonguardian.co.uk.

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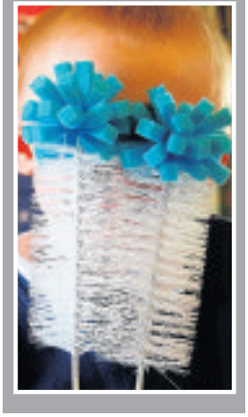

Rose woes grow as shows flop

by ROSS LOGAN
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Rose Theatre chief executive Robert O'Dowd admitted he was disappointed, but not surprised after it was revealed the venue made a loss of more than £200,000 last year.

The deficit, revealed in the annual accounts for 2012-13 that were released in December, came despite the continued £500,000 funding from Kingston Council and further £380,000 from Kingston University.

Mr O'Dowd said several underperforming shows – including The Vortex, The Second Mrs Tanqueray and last year's Christmas show Cinderella the Midnight Princess – contributed to poor box office receipts.

Ticket sales fell by £190,000 to £1.28m as total income fell to £3m from £3.5m the year before.

The flops contributed to a trading loss of £204,126 for the 2012-13 financial year.

But Mr O'Dowd said he was confident of the theatre bouncing back this year, when box office sales from hit shows including Smack Family Robinson and The Snow Gorilla will be accounted for.

Mr O'Dowd said: "It's not a surprise. I was disappointed by the performances of those three plays.

"This year it looks like we should be in profit, but there's still three months to go and a lot can change.

"I'm feeling much more confident that next year's accounts will show a brighter picture.

"We will then need to build on that and make sure there's a sustainable future for the Rose.

"This year, at this moment, it's going in the right direction."

In the year ending March 2013, the theatre sold 103,000 tickets for 21 productions, not including one-off events.

More than 55,000 people also attended artistic, educational and social events.

But the theatre's own productions – with the exception of Michael Frayn's Here – were box office flops.

Mr O'Dowd said: "Theatre is tough at the best of times.

"It is not an easy thing to rely on the vagaries of public taste.

"Maybe with The Vortex and Mrs Tanqueray, it was a case of one melodrama too many."

The results have led to a rethink for the theatre.

Artistic director Stephen Unwin has left after six years, and will not be replaced.

Instead, the theatre is moving to a producer-led model – shifting away from star names and choosing titles it believes will appeal to its audience, such as Michael Frayn's Donkey's Years and Kingston author Jacqueline Wilson's Hetty Feather, that will both feature this spring.

The theatre has also appointed a new head of fundraising and has gained new corporate partners, including restaurants Cote and La Tasca.

It hopes to double the turnover of its cafe following a deal with the Swallow Bakery, and said it had already saved £180,000 in overheads through a stringent cost control programme.

Kingston Council leader Liz Green gave her backing to the Rose, and believes the annual £500,000 funding was value for taxpayer money.

She said: "Based on the service we receive and the benefits to the residents who use the theatre, I believe it is money well spent."

Fighting talk: Rose Theatre chief executive Robert O'Dowd KT63662

Fund lack highlighted

Former Rose Theatre artistic director Stephen Unwin has claimed the lack of funding through the Arts Council was one of the reasons he decided to quit.

Mr Unwin left this month after six years at the venue, although he returns in February to direct Jane Asher in Moon Tiger.

He directed both Noel Coward's The Vortex and Arthur Wing Pinero's The Second Mrs Tanqueray, that both received critical acclaim, but underperformed at the box office, contributing to the theatre's loss.

Mr Unwin said: "As artistic director, I was responsible for everything that happened onstage. Who directed what is pretty irrelevant to the overall issue.

"Most of my choices were very commercial – The Importance of Being Earnest, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Smack Family Robinson – and I was sometimes criticised for being too popularist.

"Certainly Noel Coward and Pinero are established writers who one would think would bring in bigger audiences.

"The shortfall is what the Rose needs from the Arts Council to be able to produce a broad range of sometimes challenging, artistically interesting work.

"The lack of that, and my three-hour daily commute, is why I stood down from the Rose, not the box office from any individual shows."

Heavy rainfall may have caused traffic lights to fail three times

Rainfall may have caused traffic lights in Kingston town centre to go on the blink for the third day running according to Transport for London, *writes Faris Al-Jawad*.

Walkers had to dodge past moving cars as the lights went off near Kingston station on Monday and Tuesday, January 6 and 7.

The power had been due to return at 6pm on Tuesday, according to Kingston police, who spent the afternoon shepherding traffic.

On Tuesday, UK Power Networks said a power failure could not be the cause and suggested the problem could be with the lights themselves.

But on Wednesday the lights went off again.

A spokesman for TfL said: "The failure has been caused by a damaged cable, possibly due to the bad weather.

"A team is currently on the scene fixing the problem."

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Man, 19, and medics could not save collapsed cyclist

by JON SHARMAN
jon.sharman@london.newsquest.co.uk

An elderly cyclist collapsed and died after suffering a heart attack in Chessington.

The man, aged 85, collapsed just off the Bridge Road roundabout at about 2pm on Wednesday, January 8.

He stopped breathing, and was pronounced dead at Epsom Hospital a short time later.

His nephew Phil Russell praised paramedics who he said were "unfortunately unable to save my uncle who suffered a heart attack while cycling".

He said: "The guys deserve nothing but praise for the work they did."

A passerby who performed CPR on the man before paramedics arrived is understood to be a 19-year-old student.

The teenager's mother, who asked not to be named, said her son was on his way to work when he tried to save the cyclist's life.

Paramedics from London Ambulance and the London Air Ambulance also rushed to the cyclist's aid.

A spokesman for South East Coast Ambulance Service expressed thanks to the teenager for his actions.

Kingston police were called, and said they did not think anyone had crashed into him.

A spokesman said: "We do not believe that another vehicle was involved.

"We know the identity of the deceased. Formal identification awaits."

On Facebook residents expressed their shock and sadness, and gave their condolences to the man's family.

Chessington Councillor Andrew Day said: "My sympathies go out to his family. Thanks to everybody who did what they could for the person concerned."

After the air ambulance landed in Bridge Road police stopped traffic in both directions. The road re-opened at about 3.45pm.

Did you know the man? Call the newsdesk on 020 8744 4273 to leave a tribute.

Emergency: The air ambulance was called to the Bridge Road roundabout in Chessington

Picture: Colin Punch

Romeo lands 'hot' date after placard-waving ploy

A man who took to the streets of London with signs in search of love, landed a date after braving the wind and rain outside the Bentall Centre.

Gerald Abrahams, 39, of Roebuck Road, Chessington, caught the public imagination when he visited London landmarks armed with a placard that read "Hot brunette wanted for 2014" and "Must like dogs and landscapers".

Twitter followers dubbed him #waterlooromeo.

He visited Kingston on Tuesday.

The Evening Standard reported he had been inundated with offers and a date for Saturday night.

The landscaper who previously dabbled in online dating, but has reportedly ruled out redheads and blondes, also took his signs to Piccadilly Circus and Waterloo this week.

Hannah B tweeted: "Spotted the Waterloo Romeo in Kingston today… Seems like a nice smiley guy.

"Brave to walk around with a placard… Hope he finds his Miss Right."

Thomy Lawson tweeted: "To the man in Kingston with the sign saying 'hot brunette wanted'... RT for my mum's number."

He was not answering emails as the Kingston Guardian went to press, but told the Evening Standard: "You have got to put yourself out there.

"Life is too short. I better bloody end up with someone after this."

To contact Gerald, if it is not too late, email gerald2014@hotmail.co.uk.

Love me: Gerald Abraham with his signs outside the Bentall Centre

Bouncer and shopper in sale clash

A 6.15am Boxing Day sales queue "disturbance" was not shoppers fighting each other to get bargains, but a bust-up between a Next bouncer and a customer.

Kingston police posted a tongue-in-cheek tweet, including the hashtag "#letmeatthose bargains".

But Tony Romero, 46, claims he was pushed by Next staff and then rudely told to leave by police officers after queuing since 5.30am.

The father-of-four said the row started when he was refused entry because he did not have a numbered bag given to waiting customers.

Syrian-born Mr Romero, who owns four dry cleaning businesses including two in Ewell Road and Brighton Road, Surbiton, said: "A guy was distributing numbered bags so they could tell how many people were in the shop, but he didn't say each person should have a bag.

"Me and my wife took one bag between us, but when we got to the door they said my wife could go in but I couldn't because I didn't have a bag.

"I said I wasn't having it but then this other guy came out and said 'You're not coming in, mate,' and he pushed me."

He said he called the police who told him to move on.

Mr Romero said: "I would never treat my customers this way.

"I've been in this country for a long time, 24 years, and I've never been treated this way."

Marking the Great War

With the centenary of the First World War this year, Rose Theatre is asking Kingston residents to contribute war memorabilia for an exhibition.

Galsworthy and Human Battles on the Home Front will focus on the life of Kingston author and Nobel laureate John Galsworthy during the Great War.

The Rose Theatre's exhibition, set to open in September 2014, will draw on Galsworthy's collection of writings and diaries.

Born in Kingston Hill, Galsworthy worked as a hospital orderly in France during the war.

He had a reputation as a social reformer and among other issues that he pursued were women's rights, prison reform and animal welfare.

This led him to set up the first magazine for disabled servicemen, as well as campaign for their better treatment.

A spokesman for the Rose said: "We are seeking your contributions. Your theatre needs you."

If you have any family memorabilia, stories or memories from the First World War that you would like to contribute to the exhibition, call 07786 142330 or visit **digitaldrama.org**.

The deadline for contributions is March 28.

Child porn

A Kingston man could face a jail term after police discovered nearly 300 indecent photos of children and more than 80 indecent movies with children.

Russell Gower, 33, of Sopwith Way in Kingston, pleaded guilty to four counts of downloading indecent images of children up to level four as well as five counts of downloading movies of children up to level five – the highest.

He also pleaded guilty to possessing 273 indecent photos of children and 82 indecent movies with children on or before August 10, 2012. He will be sentenced at Kingston Crown Court at a later date.

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Hoping for a roaring success

Appeal: Nanna Paskesen is seeking donations to help finance her film on animals

by NAZIA DEWJI
ndewji@london.newsquest.co.uk

Research into the abnormal behaviour of tigers, giraffes, gorillas and elephants in zoos could be funded by crowdsourcing after a plea from a Kingston University student.

Media and cultural studies student Nanna Paskesen is making a documentary called Zoochosis – a term coined by actor and environmental activist Bill Travers about the obsessive and repetitive behaviours of animals held in captivity.

But the 23-year-old has made a short video to help people understand her aims and is asking for £500 within the next 30 days to help kick-start her project.

Miss Paskesen, of Saxon Close in Surbiton, who grew up on a farm in Denmark, said: "I contacted London Zoo and the zoo wanted a lot of money for an interview so I thought: 'What am I going to do? I am a poor student'.

"It was my supervisor's idea to make a kickstart video.

"I filmed the video on my own in two days.

"I have had a longstanding passion for animals.

"I always wanted to be a vet, but I was never really good with science stuff, so I thought why not go the creative way and see if I can help animals in this way."

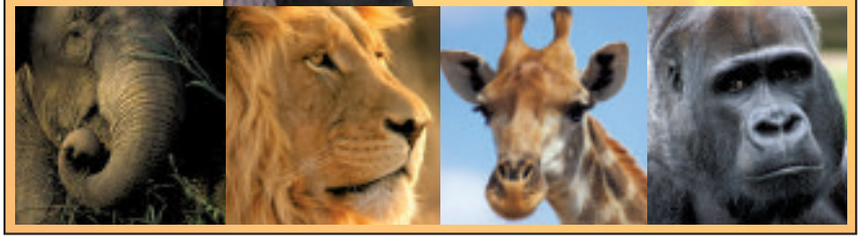
She was inspired over the summer when she watched a documentary called Black Fish, which featured her favourite animal – the killer whale.

On the first day Zoochosis went online, Miss Paskesen managed to collect £83.

All the money will help to pay for transport and entry fees to zoos such as Chessington World of Adventures, access to copyrighted material and to carry out interviews with zookeepers and researchers, as well as pay for a website.

Zoo can help

To help finance Nanna Paskesen's project visit: kickstarter.com/projects/711000852/zoochosis-a-short-documentary



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Briefly

CARRY KNIFE: A teenager who took a kitchen knife to the Bentall Centre has been given a referral order.

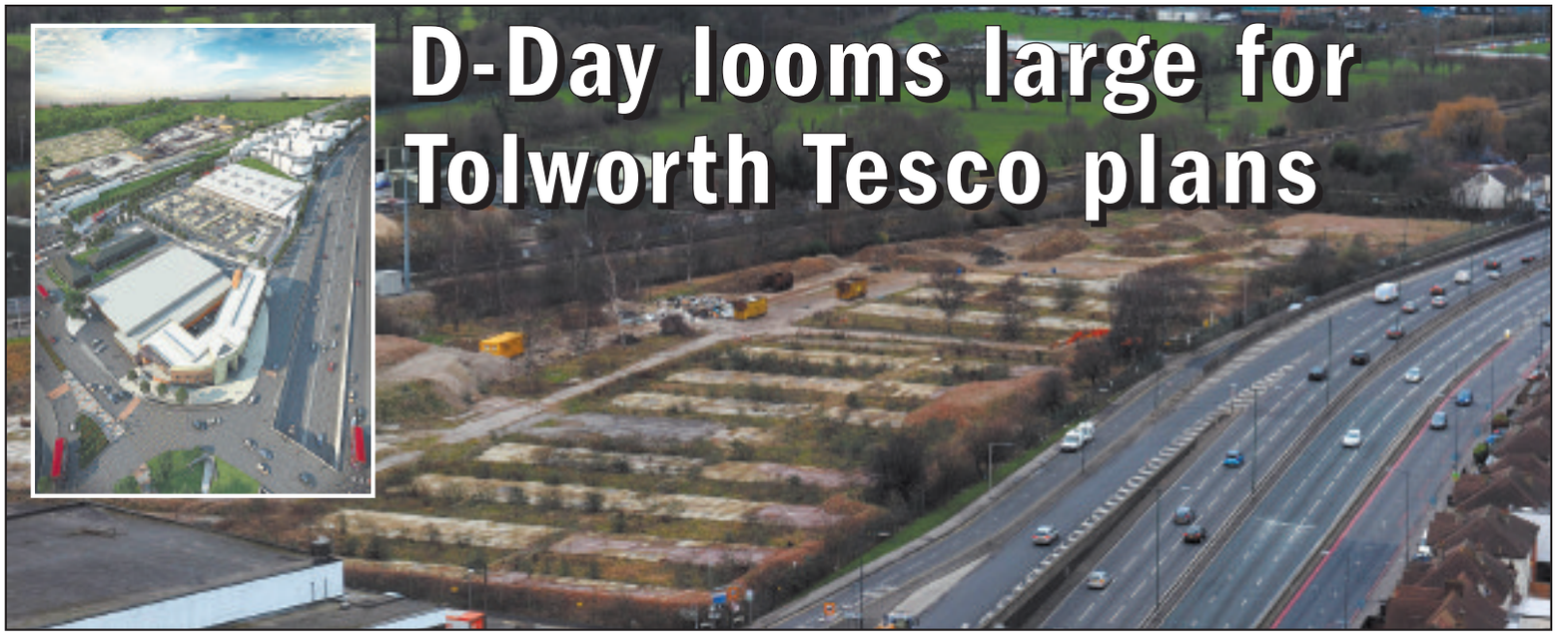
The 16-year-old from Thornton Heath took the weapon to the Kingston shopping centre on November 13, last year. He was sentenced on his first appearance at Wimbledon Youth Court on January 8. He was also ordered to pay £15 in victim surcharge.

THREAT CLAIM: A Feltham woman will stand trial accused of using threatening language to a police officer on the night of a brawl outside Essence nightclub.

Kelly Woodfield, 33, of Derwent Close, denied the charge at Wimbledon Magistrates' Court on Monday.

She will appear at Kingston Crown Court on Monday, January 27. Ms Woodfield was not involved in the fight.

D-Day looms large for Tolworth Tesco plans



Proposal: A hotel, 269 flats, a restaurant and a 4,700sq m Tesco, inset, are planned for the site in Tolworth that has been empty for years

Deadlinepix KT63808

by JON SHARMAN

jon.sharman@london.newsquest.co.uk

Controversial plans to build a 4,700sq m Tesco, a four-storey hotel and 269 flats on a Tolworth brownfield site are finally set to come before councillors.

The site, next to Charrington Bowl, would also include a restaurant, cafe and more than 200 parking spaces for the flats and the supermarket.

A fifth of the flats would be designated affordable housing.

Kingston and Surbiton MP Edward Davey said: "I think the council should reject the plan for a Tesco by Tolworth roundabout once again.

"It would make the heavy traffic congestion there even worse, not to mention the air pollution.

"We need things like more housing and new primary schools for this area, not another supermarket, and I hope Tesco will finally get that message this time."

Residents are divided by the proposals, submitted a year-and-a-half ago, but delayed by Transport for London's (TfL) involvement in the Olympics.

Kingston Council received 50 letters of objection, but 87 in support.

Points of opposition included the new hotel and supermarket threatening businesses in Tolworth Broadway, an increase in traffic and pollution, and the belief the designs are out of character with the surrounding area.

Strong views: MP Edward Davey

Supporters said they would welcome the generation of new jobs, and that the development would boost Tolworth's appeal and levels of trade.

The Chessington District Residents' Association, the Hook Rise South Residents' Association and the Kingston Society all oppose the plans.

Councillor Rolson Davies, who lives near the site, said: "The last time residents were written to about this was June 2012.

"What concerns me, regardless of whether one is in favour or not, is residents in the area may not even know this is coming through. That bothers me."

TfL objected on safety grounds, while council traffic engineers said more thought needed to be given to the development's impact on nearby roads and residential parking.

Mr Davey raised traffic concerns in 2012 and Tesco spokesman Matt Magee said at the time: "Purely from an economic point of view, we would not be investing in an area where traffic would prevent people from wanting to shop.

"We cannot operate a store where no one will come."

Applicant Spenhill is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tesco.

The company has been involved with residential developments in Streatham and Woolwich, and commercial sites in West Bromwich and Sunderland.

Councillors will discuss the plans at a meeting at 7.30pm on Wednesday, January 15, at Southborough High School.

Sky falls in on satellite dish

A New Malden family has had a lucky escape after their TV set and Sky satellite receiver exploded on Sunday.

Daughter Sophia Kyriacou (*pictured*), was upstairs in the home in Portlands Avenue, when their satellite dish was hit by lightning just before 8pm.

Miss Kyriacou, 22, said: "I saw a white, bomb-like effect that caused a slight vibration to our house.

"My mum and brother were watching TV downstairs where it blew up in a puff of dark smoke in front of their eyes.

"I thought it was a bomb, I can still remember the sound.

"It was really scary. We have a big, black smoky wall where the TV blew up now."

Lightning: Sophia Kyriacou KT82227

Firefighters attended the scene and the family was later allowed back in the house.

No needles

Work by Kingston Council to map drug-related litter left around Surbiton Health Centre uncovered no reports of used needles being found.

The mapping was ordered in the wake of an acrimonious meeting last year concerning the drug rehabilitation services provided at the centre.

An update for councillors said parents and teachers next door at Lime Tree Primary School reported no problems to police during a visit in November.

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Day to show Kingston love

Fundraising: Students from Kingston College

by ROSS LOGAN
ross.logan@london.newsquest.co.uk

Valentine's Day is only five weeks away, when millions of couples will celebrate their love for each other through all kinds of gooey romantic gestures.

But here in Kingston we do things a bit differently, and show our appreciation not just for our other halves, but the borough we live in.

This February 14 will be the second annual Love Kingston Day, where residents, businesses and organisations raise funds for Kingston-based good causes.

It is the single biggest fundraising event organised by the Love Kingston appeal, which supports five charities providing "pathways out of poverty" for the borough's most in need.

In 2013, the appeal was pledged £90,000 to support women's refuge Hestia, Kingston Foodbank, Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness, credit union Kingston Savers and youth charity Oxygen.

But this year, Love Kingston fundraising manager Elaine Miller is confident of beating that total – setting a daunting target of £100,000 for the day alone.

Ms Miller said: "It's bold, I know, but I think it's a good thing to have something that's challenging. That way the community sees it and thinks it's a big ask and wants to help get there.

"People are really picking up on Love Kingston Day. There's an awareness that wasn't there last year."

Over Christmas, a number of supporters visited the charity's Siddeley House offices to record a video message about why they are supporting Love Kingston day.

All the videos have now been uploaded on to the charity's YouTube channel.

You can help spread the word about Love Kingston Day by displaying an official poster in your home or business – contact Elaine Miller on 020 8255 3335 or tweet @LvKingston.

Alternatively, if you want to display a special Love Kingston Day promo board provided by corporate property consultant Bonsors, email elaine@londoncf.org.uk.

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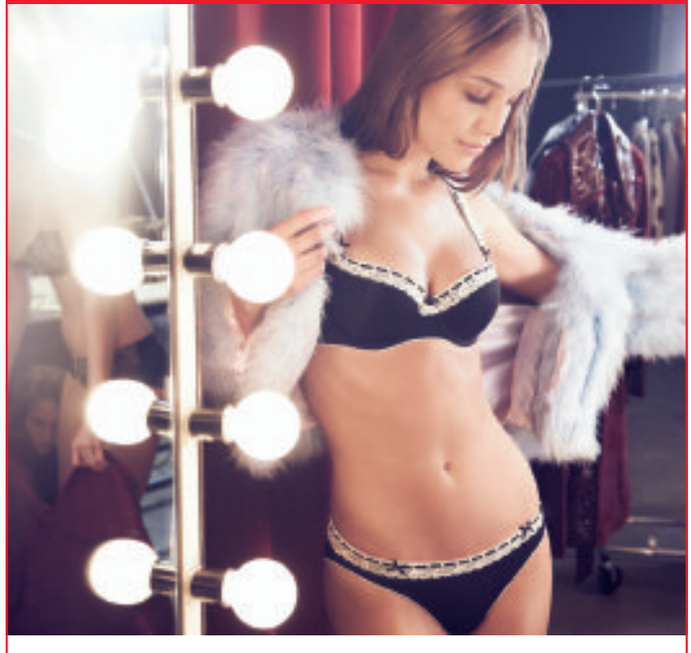

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Briefly

PARK STABBING: A 17-year-old boy has been bailed again following the stabbing of a 16-year-old in New Malden last summer. The boy staggered from Blagdon Park to High Street where he was found slumped outside KFC on July 3. A 16-year-old has been released with no further action. Call Kingston police on 020 8721 5913 or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

SLOW PROGRESS: Journalist June Sampson – features editor with our sister newspaper the Surrey Comet – is still in hospital after being hit by a car in Galsworthy Road on November 27. Her daughter, Anna Tims, said progress was "slow and painful".

SWING RESCUE: Firefighters rescued a teenage girl after she got stuck in a playground swing in a Surbiton park. The incident happened in Alexandra recreation ground at about noon on January 8, Surbiton white watch firefighters said. The swing was left intact after the rescue, they said.

Known criminals were in club on fight night

by JON SHARMAN
jon.sharman@london.newsquest.co.uk

More than half of the 210 patrons in nightclub Essence on the night of a 30-man brawl had criminal records.

They had been convicted of offences including manslaughter, attempted murder, possession of firearms and ammunition, sexual assault, robbery, burglary, drug dealing and assault on police.

Another 24 people went unidentified on the night of December 6 last year, after staff let them in with credentials including bank cards and an Oyster card.

One man got in using a woman's ID, according to police.

The club was closed down on Monday, January 8, after Kingston police asked councillors to revoke its licence, following December's violent display.

After the 11-hour hearing in front of Kingston Council's licensing sub-committee, Chief Inspector Gary Taylor, of Kingston police, said: "We only take premises to expedited review in extreme circumstances. The right decision was reached."

Essence owner Franco Lumba tried to save the licence by offering to sell his club to Richard Hunt, former owner of Surrey Sports Centre, for about £400,000.

But councillors rejected that approach, saying the plans were "premature".

Mr Lumba's legal team had sent an email detailing the proposal on the Friday afternoon before the hearing.

Committee chairman and Norbiton councillor Stephen Brister said: "Effectively, the licence holder accepted that [the club] had been mismanaged.

"They didn't actually put up a defence in that sense – they just put forward a deal."

Mr Hunt, *pictured below*, had signalled his intention to run a club for over-25s, and said he would hold regular meetings with residents to address their concerns, plus hire new staff.

He told councillors: "There is an awful lot of work to be done to get this place running right."

Michael Bromley-Martin QC, representing Mr Lumba, laid the blame for the violence at the feet of management and outside promoter Trio, and claimed the music played at Essence during Trio's tenure was "of a kind that attracts persons involved in gang affiliations in south London in particular".

The sub-committee's decision is open to appeal for 21 days after a decision letter is sent.

Mr Bromley-Martin declined to comment at the end of the hearing.

Hearing: Essence owner Franco Lumba KT78733

Flashpoint: A caller told police the bouncers seemed to have lost control

'You need a lot of police, quickly'

A partial transcript of a 999 call from December 7, taken at 1.52am. The caller was a woman.

Caller: It's going on outside the club. It's getting really out of hand. You need a lot of police here right now. Really quickly, it's getting really out of hand. I don't want anyone to get hurt – no, sorry. Please, quickly, I can still see that it's going on.

Operator: You can see people hurt?

Caller: Yeah, there are people on the floor and there are people still fighting and there are barriers getting (inaudible) – you need the police right now.

Operator: Is there any security there?

Caller: Yeah, there's the bouncers, but I think it's got out of hand – I think they have lost control.

Club boss is grilled over nightclub brawl

Councillor Stephen Brister, who chaired Monday's meeting, had a forthright exchange with Essence owner Franco Lumba.

He said: "It seems that you are taking no responsibility. This is not just the responsibility of the designated premises supervisor.

"As the licence holder, you are responsible for achieving the licensing objectives."

Mr Lumba said he had "stepped back" from the business after a 2011 licence condition banned him from the day-to-day running of Essence.

He said: "I don't get involved with it at all. I left Des [Murphy, the designated premises supervisor, now sacked] to control it."

Mr Lumba's legal team said he had complied "religiously" with the condition banning him from day-to-day involvement.

Mr Lumba added he had only returned to overseeing his various businesses after being acquitted of money laundering charges last year.

In August 2013, he was ordered to do 240 hours of unpaid work after being convicted of assaulting an ex-girlfriend in a hotel car park.

And, in April, he was fined £75,000 for "defiantly" ripping up the floor of the listed Gala bingo hall.

Mr Brister said: "The criminal convictions [of clubbers on the night of the brawl] were not stuff like shoplifting.

"The only thing I'm surprised by is this didn't get to us earlier."

Coun Brister said that Kingston Council should look "to make [the borough] more friendly for the 30s and above – for people who just want to go out for a nice drink, go out for a meal".

Ugly scenes: The brawl

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The day the floods came

by NAZIA DEWJI
ndewji@london.newsquest.co.uk

A Kingston road has flooded leaving floating debris in its path.

Lower Ham Road which backs on to both Kingston and Richmond has been covered in up to 2ft of water following heavy rainfall in the borough.

Resident John Parrish has had his car tyres punctured by nails in the stream.

He said: "It is quite flooded. Our cellar is getting some water in it which we are having to pump out. It is annoying.

"We can only come in and leave at one direction. We can only get out towards Richmond and then come back on ourselves again.

"There is so much debris in the road – nails, bits of wood. You try and drive past everything but there is just so much that has come out of the river.

"I would not recommend anyone to drive the whole way down the road until the council will come and clean it up."

Last week the Environment Agency issued a flood warning for Kingston.

High water: Flooding by the River Thames in Lower Ham Road. The floodwater contained a lot of debris, according to one resident

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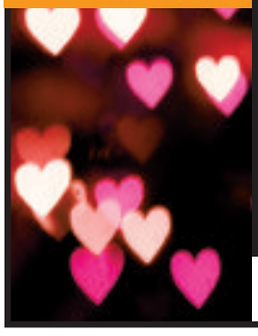

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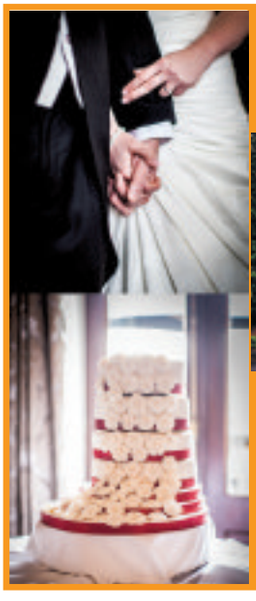
Bistro Refurbishment

The Inn on the Lake Bar & Bistro will undergo a refurbishment in February. Situated on the water's edge, the popular eatery's interior will be updated, providing contemporary Lakeside dining for all. Featuring panoramic views overlooking the Silvermere Lake and the 18th Green, The Inn on the Lake provides the perfect setting to relax, unwind and celebrate.

It's not just the interiors that will change; the bistro will feature new menus served all day, fresh ground coffee and an extensive wine and beer selection.



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Email: letters@kingstonguardian.co.uk Online: Your letters online at kingstonguardian.co.uk/yoursay/letters

Mental health trust working to improve 'consent to care'

I am writing in response to the article regarding the Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection at Tolworth Hospital ("Care consent" failures found on hospital wards, January 9).

We at South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust welcome the CQC report on our services following its recent visit to Tolworth Hospital.

We are pleased that the inspectors recognised some of the excellent work we are doing and praised us in the crucial areas of staffing, patients' welfare and safety.

Comments from patients and their relatives such as "life has started to get better since being on the ward", "everyone is friendly" and "I'm happy with the treatment here" were particularly pleasing to read in the report.

The CQC noted that care and treatment was "planned and delivered in a way intended to ensure people's safety and welfare", people are cared for in safe and accessible surroundings and there are enough staff to meet people's health and welfare needs.

The report emphasised the levels of compassion and caring from staff towards people who use our services.

However, we take issues of compliance very seriously and are always looking for ways to refresh the services we provide.

We have already submitted a report to the CQC into how we will improve our practice regarding service users' consent to care and treatment.

Lilacs ward in the hospital was praised as an example of best practice in this area and we have built on this in putting together a comprehensive plan of action to enhance service users' experience.

We always welcome comments from anyone interested in our trust's work and I urge anyone with anything to say – positive or negative – to get in touch with me at the address below.

DAVID BRADLEY
Chief executive
South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust

Club used as scapegoat

The charges listed for closing Barcadia are laughable.

I think my favourite is the one with the guy vandalising a car then saying it was because he was drunk and had been in Barcadia. Otherwise he would not have done it.

Or the club's window being smashed because they "assume" it was because someone was mad at the club for being kicked out. So it's Barcadia's fault.

The girl having her phone stolen after leaving Barcadia and she was drunk so that's why they stole it and it's Barcadia's fault.

Or the guys causing problems in Kingston town centre, and claiming they had been in Barcadia. So it's Barcadia's fault.

Four guys getting into a fight at the train station after being in Barcadia (and who knows where else).

My, my, must be nice to blame everything on one place.

Just wondering, if someone shoplifts a shirt in John Lewis is it John Lewis' fault for having that shirt available?

Or if the windows are broken at Marks & Spencer is M&S at fault?

This establishment, that has been in Kingston for 10 years, has given countless jobs, sponsored local sports teams (my own included), school events and has raised money for so many charities (my own included as well) is being closed because they are being a scapegoat for the police for crimes not even committed on the premises.

I would love to see the list for crimes actually committed inside Oceana before it was finally closed due to someone being shot and killed, and even then only closed for two weeks. I am sure it is the same.

I look forward to attending a party this weekend where the beer and champagne was bought from Waitrose so, therefore, I am not held responsible for my own actions.

NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED

I read with some amusement the article on the council closing a night club called Barcadia.

The council seems to blame all the events on the club and does not seem to put the blame on the person/persons accused of individual incidents.

I find it ridiculous it should close a nightclub because of people's actions after they have left the place.

MICHELE EDWARDS
High Street
Kingston

Not so tough when dealing with big company

I was interested to read that Kingston Council "thought about" fining Thames Water, after it dug up the road and blocked traffic for weeks on end.

"Thought about" it eh? Not for long, I'll bet. Before you could say "sound bite" they'll have been persuaded otherwise.

If a local driver momentarily strays into a bus lane, or unwittingly gets caught in a traffic box for more than a second, the council fines these taxpaying individuals with fundamentalist zeal. However, it is not so tough when it is dealing with a big corporation that has been criticised over its avoidance of its tax duties.

So the council appears to be ruthlessly fleecing the very people it is supposed to be offering a service to.

Meanwhile, the shareholders of Thames Water must be delighted with the "light touch regulation" offered by our representatives.

OK, so Thames Water can not be blamed for the state of the sewers. But the owners knew that when they bought the company. I am sure the council, and its favourite enforcers, would have no hesitation in pointing this out if you or I broke any regulation, no matter how trifling the transgression or disproportionate the fine.

Who are they working for? It certainly does not look like they act in our interests.

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Advertisement Feature

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Helping children get the results they need

Southern Tutors is pleased to be able to offer term-time Saturday morning classes again this year. These start this month and are held at a secondary school in Epsom.

The classes cater for children preparing for the 11 plus and private school entrance exams and also for those wishing to improve their maths and English in order to obtain an excellent level in the SATs tests.

Southern Tutors has also recruited extra staff members for the Saturday courses. This ensures that children get essential help whenever it is required.

Southern Tutors continues to expand its recruitment of talented teachers and tutors to help students to achieve their potential.

In the last few months, it has doubled the number of specialist teachers it has who are willing to help students with their studies.

Its teachers offer tuition in a wide range of subjects.

Areas covered include the core fields of maths, English, business studies, chemistry, biology, physics, geography, economics, and classics to Oxbridge entrance exams, psychology and law.

It also offers foreign language tuition including Spanish, Italian, German, Japanese and Mandarin – and all at very competitive rates.

Southern Tutors exam results have been excellent, once again, for the 11 plus exams, and older pupils are now working intensively, with the help of Southern Tutors' highly qualified staff, towards their GCSE and A- level exams.

Southern Tutors' managing director, Jane Race, said: "It was wonderful to hear that so many of our students gained university and secondary school places of their choice in 2013. We are working hard to supply experienced, qualified teachers who are at the top of their game to ensure that our students continue to reach their full potential in 2014."

Southern Tutors' managing director Jane Race

Game on for maths made fun

Children can find learning their times tables repetitive and boring.

But now Number Works'nWords, which offers specialist maths and English tuition, has created Steve Storm and the Tables of Doom computer game to make learning times tables engaging, stimulating and fun. Playing the game doesn't feel like learning, and children succeed in it by mastering their times tables.

For parents, the game is a way of ensuring their children are getting the best educational outcomes with the least amount of hassle.

A spokesman for NumberWorks'nWords said: "We all know how important it is for children to learn their times tables.

"Future maths skills build on this knowledge and without it children will struggle later on as they progress to algebra and more complicated maths."

Play for free on www.numberworks.com/arcade or download the app.

To find out more about NumberWorks'nWords and how it can help your child in maths and English, visit www.numberworks.co.uk.

Alternatively phone the Sutton centre on 020 8642 8884 or the Wallington centre on 020 8669 4343.

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In Kingston, there are children of all cultural backgrounds who need a home, so it's no barrier if English is not your first language either. All you need is a spare room, time – and a real desire to make a difference to a child's life.

A spokesman for the fostering and adoption team for Kingston's Learning and Children's Services said: "We recognise the hard work and passion our carers put in.

"All of our carers are paid an allowance, receive ample training and are fully supported by our team.

"We welcome enquiries from anyone interested in fostering, but we particularly need carers for sibling groups and teenagers – just give us a call or visit our website!"

You can find out if fostering might be for you at two information events in Kingston.

The first is being held from 10am to 3pm on Saturday, January 18, and the other from 6.30pm to 8.30pm on Wednesday, January 22, upstairs at Pizza Express, Portsmouth Road.

Visit www.kingston.gov.uk/fostering
Tel: 020 8547 5004
Email: fostering@rbk.kingston.gov.uk

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Departs 4 April 2014

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- Coach travel throughout
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Vibe SHORTS

SUMMER NIGHTS: Grease is the word in Kingston and you're the one that they want. The Kingston Vale Theatre Group holds auditions for its production of the hit musical this month at the Royal Oak pub in Coombe Road, New Malden. Before the auditions on Monday, January 27, two workshops will be held on January 20 and 21, both at 8pm.

● **Grease auditions; Royal Oak, 90 Coombe Road, New Malden KT3 4RD; January 27, 8pm; workshops: Monday, January 20, and Tuesday, January 21, 8pm; email kvods@gmail.com or visit kvods.com.**

BLITZ SPIRIT: Cheshire rockers Blitz Kids return to Kingston this weekend for an afternoon show in support of their new album. The Nantwich foursome play the Fighting Cocks this Sunday the day before new LP, The Good Youth, hits the shelves. The matinee gig is open to all ages, and support comes in the form of alternative rock group Dead!

● **Blitz Kids; Fighting Cocks, Old London Road, Kingston; January 19, 3pm; £10 (includes CD); visit banquet records.com.**

WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE: Are you a rock fan with an Appetite For Destruction? Then head to the Grey Horse in Kingston tomorrow to see one of the biggest Guns N' Roses tribute acts in the world. Guns 2 Roses will raise the roof at the Richmond Road pub with nailed-on covers of hits including Paradise City, You Could Be Mine, and the obligatory Sweet Child O' Mine.

● **Guns 2 Roses, Grey Horse, Richmond Road, Kingston; January 18, 8.30pm; £10 (£8 adv); visit grey-horse.co.uk, call 020 3674 7810.**

BASS AT BOATERS: Acclaimed bassist Joe Hubbard will be the next guest at the Boaters' weekly jazz night. The Joe Hubbard group will be at the pub, accompanied by saxophonist Mornington Lockett, Tony Smith on guitar and drummer Mike Bradley.

● **The Joe Hubbard Group, The Boaters, Lower Ham Road, Kingston; January 19, 8pm; free; boaterslivemusic.com.**

ITALIAN EXHIBITION: An exhibition of Italian art will be showcased in Tolworth this February. The Italian-British Association and Kingston Arts have teamed up to promote Italian culture over the coming months, starting with a show at the Cornerhouse featuring the paintings and photography of two internationally acclaimed Italian artists. Italian-Argentinian painter Maria Virginia Cheli's exhibition, Women in Dreamy Nature, highlights her dual heritage.

● **Women in Dreamy Nature & Tales of India; Cornerhouse, Douglas Road, Tolworth; Sunday, February 2, to Friday, February 28 (Gala Night Wednesday, February 12, 7pm); email mar_iacuzio@hotmail.com or call 020 8399 2898.**

AIDA BY OPERA DE BAUGE

● **The Rose, 24-26 High Street, Kingston; January 25, 7.30pm; £40/£15 pit cushions; call 08444 821556, visit rosetheatrekingston.org.**

Vibe

kingstonguardian.co.uk/vibe

LOVE AND BETRAYAL

An Italian opera centred on a love triangle, which has been performed in rural France, will be coming to the Rose Theatre for one night only, *writes Nazia Dewji*.

Aida, an Italian language musical piece, tells the story of three people whose lives take an unexpected turn through experiences of unrequited love, betrayal, revenge and self-sacrifice.

> **If you are seeing an opera for the first time, this is a good show**

But Bernadette Grimmett, founder of the theatre group Opera de Bauge, says audiences need not know the language to understand and appreciate the show written by 19th century composer Giuseppe Verdi.

She says: "They will know exactly what is going on even though they are singing in Italian.

"I think it is really important that you know what is being said.

"The phrases and the octaves at the end of sentences will tell you exactly what they are saying."

Grimmett says singing in English would not have the same effect as the tone of the language would not be so well suited or expressive to the ancient story, and by bringing Aida in its original form audiences will be getting a treat.

She says: "I don't think we need to draw parallels – the audiences will be able to draw them themselves.

"We have turned our back on that.

"We will be playing it straight.

"If you are seeing an opera for the first time, this is a good show."

Opera de Bauge will be performing at the Rose for the first time and the show will include 160 people including an orchestra, a chorus, dancers and soloists.

Grimmett says: "The Rose is a very intimate space.

"It's a space where you can really showcase a spectacle.

"You will have more than 150 people at your service."

She added that if the opera was a success at the Rose, the company would also bring the likes of The Marriage of Figaro, Madama Butterfly and Pagliacci to the stage.

ENTER Aladdin's CAVE

Join the lovable street urchin Aladdin and his trusty genie to raise money for charity this month in Kingston.

New Malden-based amateur theatre group St James's Players will perform a fundraising pantomime based on the classic tale in support of the Mayor's Charitable Trust, which this year is supporting the Alzheimer's Society and Princess Alice Hospice.

The show premiers at St James Church in Bodley Road, New Malden, on Friday, January 17, before heading to the Rose Theatre in Kingston for a special one-off performance on Saturday, January 18.

It then returns to the New Malden church for a series of afternoon and evening performances.

The play, based on the adaptation by John Morley, follows Aladdin on his magic carpet through a mystical world of adventures, bringing the usual opportunities for audience participation.

Kingston mayor Penny Shelton says: "It enables everyone to have a good time whether young or old and also raises funds for charity."

Aladdin; Rose Theatre, High Street, Kingston; Saturday, January 18, 7pm; £12 adult, £7 children; call 08444 821556.

St James Church, Bodley Road, New Malden; Friday, January 17, and Wednesday, January 22 to Saturday 25, 2.30pm and 7.45pm; £8 adults, £4 children.

Call 020 8408 0638 or visit stjamesplayers.co.uk.

ALADDIN

Vibe INSIDE: Nice nails p18 Perfect your pilates p20

Vibe

FOR MORE ON THESE AND OTHER STORIES VISIT kingstonguardian.co.uk/vibe

Polished performance: Nail art demonstrates artistic and creative skill

GOT IT NAILED

Need some nail inspiration? Get ready for the new craze that proves there is more to manicures than just a quick file and polish, *writes Charlotte Goodwin*.

Nail art is pushing the boundaries and the trend does not just stick to sparkles and jewels, nails are now a work of art with technicians demonstrating a great amount of artistic and creative skill.

Inspirational ideas can be found from celebrities, beauty brands and the catwalks, all pushing the nail design boundaries.

Roxanne Campbell, from Hand and Foot Spa based in Wimbledon and Chelsea, says: "I saw an increase in people asking for nail art after the Olympics when people saw athletes with nail designs. I painted 215 flags during the event."

She adds that her design inspiration comes from matching nail design to the latest fashion and she uses glitter, 3D polish and two-tone colours depending on the look.

While some of the latest designs on the street may turn heads with their boldness and originality, the practice of decorating nails dates back not just centuries but millennia.

Nail colouring can be traced back to ancient civilisations including the Egyptians and the Incas, while henna has been used to dye skin and nails throughout India and the Middle East.

The 19th century saw the start of the manicure with coloured oils, tinted powders and buffing. But it was not until the 1920s that the trend developed in America as the glossy colours used for American cars were emulated on finger nails.

However, you do not need to go to a high-street beauty salon to get your own statement nails.

Specialist nail pens, magnetic nail polish and nail gems can all be purchased from most beauty shops, allowing absolutely anyone the chance to add a bit of sparkle to their fingertips.

MANY CURES: ● The Nails Boutique has got the perfect pamper package for nails in need of some tender love and care. Complete with a spa concept, the shop offers creative designs in a relaxing environment. **The Nails Boutique, 44 Wood Street, Kingston; call 020 8546 9069, visit the-nails-boutique.co.uk.** ● USA Nail Spa has a list of nail treatments at hand for the busy or the more leisurely person. **USA Nail Spa, 9 High Street, New Malden; call 020 8949 5900.** ● If you prefer a more homely treatment with professional products and service then look no further than Kitty and Grace Beauty Studio located inside a Surbiton home. **Kitty and Grace Beauty Studio, 1 Tudor Lodge, 8 Oak Hill Road, Surbiton; call 07515 483674, visit kittyandgrace.com.**

PastPubs

There are many fine pubs in Surbiton, New Malden and Chessington – but there are many more now closed or long forgotten.

But a new book compiling the towns' past and present boozers has been published, recounting every single public house that ever existed in the area.

Pubs, Inns and Taverns of Surbiton and Malden by Richard F Holmes provides a brief history of all the pubs to have served Surbiton, New Malden, Old Malden, Hook, Chessington and Tolworth.

It contains old maps showing where each pub is or used to be, as well as historic and new photographs of how they are now.

The author's research reveals which breweries owned each inn, as well as intriguing stories of rule-breaking landlords, who have been taken to court for serving after hours, or allowing gambling on the premises.

● **Pubs, Inns and Taverns of Surbiton and Malden by Richard F Holmes; £12.50; available from Kingston Local History Room; email local.history@rbk.kingston.gov.uk.**

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POETRY and pros celebration

A celebration of the first Kingston libraries poetry competition will take place next week.

Poets and non-poets are welcome at Kingston library on Tuesday, to hear the winning entries from last year's inaugural event, based on the theme of water.

Alison Townsend, reading resources manager at Kingston library, says: "There were lots of different styles of writing.

"Some were jokey and others were quite personal.

"It was encouraging to see people having a go."

Kingston poet Alison Hill, one of the competition judges, will also give a sneak preview of her latest poetry collection.

Refreshments will be provided.

● **Kingston libraries poetry competition celebration; Kingston library, Fairfield Road, Kingston; Tuesday, January 21, 7.30pm; free.**

GET to the CORE

If you want to get fit this new year why not venture down to your local pilates class and stretch away those January blues?

In the past 10 years pilates has become one of the most popular and effective forms of exercise on the market, *writes Jamie Henderson*.

It can help you lose weight, ease back pain, tone trouble spots, provide ante-natal relief or even recover from injury.

The exercises can be practised on a mat or using equipment, but, before you start, it is vital to learn the importance of movement with breathing.

And then as you get better, exercises are combined to create a flowing continuous movement.

Pilates was designed by Joseph Pilates, a German physical-culturist, during the first half of the 20th century.

He believed mental and physical health were interrelated and designed a form of full-body exercise, which bolstered the body's core strength and posture.

The original six principles were concentration, control, centre, flow, precision and breathing, and each facet is key to performing the exercises correctly.

The discipline focuses primarily on what pilates called the "powerhouse", or the group of muscles that begins two inches below the navel, goes two inches above the navel and then wraps completely around the front and back – like a corset.

With pilates, no matter what exercise you are doing, you are focusing on this "powerhouse" area and, unlike yoga, strings and pulleys are used to create resistance, which aids core strengthening.

Sally Imber, founder of Battersea's the Pilates Practice, says: "Pilates is for everybody, no matter what age, sex or fitness level. We have clients ranging from children through to the elderly.

"Ten years ago we only really had women, but now it is getting close to 50/50.

"We work on the really tiny muscles that are rarely used, which help improve core stability and we provide individual advice and teaching.

"It is vitally important to have a qualified teacher, all of our instructors are qualified and we have a maximum of four people per class."

There are hundreds of pilates classes held across the capital each week, but remember, the fewer people in your class, the more attention you will get from the instructor.

Prices range from £10-£15 for basic tuition and more for private and advanced classes.

Pilates nearby

Pilates instructor Siobhan Davis offers sessions for all levels of experience at her Surbiton Pilates Studio in Victoria Road.

Classes run six days a week Monday to Saturday, and private sessions are also available.

● **Surbiton Pilates Studio, 34a Victoria Road, Surbiton KT6 4JL; 020 8399 8996; info@surbitonpilates.com; surbitonpilates.com.**

Kingston Pilates Studio, run by Diane West, offers the latest in pilates exercise equipment, as well as treatments including massage, meditation and reiki.

● **Kingston Pilates Studio, 142 Kings Road, Kingston KT2 5HU; 07973 640544; info@kingston pilatesstudio.co.uk; kingstonpilatesstudio.co.uk.**

Becki Stevenson offers pilates classes at two venues – the Hook Centre and St Mary Centre in Chessington. She also provides Nordic walking classes in Epsom, focusing on breathing and walking techniques to improve fitness and stamina.

● **Core2Walk, Hook Centre, Hook Road, Chessington KT9 1EJ; Mondays and Tuesdays; St Mary Centre, Church Lane, Chessington KT9 2DR; Wednesdays and Fridays; 07502 215827; enquiries@ core2walk.co.uk; core2walk.co.uk.**

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Looking for best return for savers

Fifty per cent of over 50s consider either buy-to-let or buy-to-sell property as the most attractive investment option when planning their family's financial security – ahead of shares, equities, antiques or any other type of investment.

That's according to research carried out by buy-to-let specialist Sequre Property Investment.

Sequre found that only 10 per cent of over 50s are happier with their plans for retirement now than they were five years ago. The survey results also show that almost 60 per cent of 50 to 59-year-olds would invest in property to secure their children's or grandchildren's future, ahead of other investments.

This percentage decreases as the age of respondents increases, with only 25 per cent of over 80s considering property investment as the most attractive investment option when planning their family's financial security.

This trend strengthens the idea that those approaching retirement have an increasingly positive outlook on property investment, something which Sequre's managing director Graham Davidson believes is down to a lack of trust in banks and volatility in the stock market.

He said: "We have identified a sharp increase in the number of investors who are approaching retirement coming to us with an interest in the rewards of property investment and its potential to rescue their retirement plans.

"I think this demographic, feeling let down by banks and the performance of the stock market, is wising up to the appeal of buy-to-let investment as an income source in retirement which can also provide 'lump sum' financial security for their family. The fact our research found buy-to-let investment is more than twice as popular as shares amongst over 50s speaks for itself."

Visit www.sequre.co.uk for more information.

Breaking up is less hard to do

January is apparently the month when many couples resolve to start a new life – apart.

It has become known as the break-up month when couples decide to move out and move on. The question for many is to do it painlessly, avoiding confrontation and the embarrassment of coming home to find the door locked or their possessions on the street – which is where Move on Movers comes in.

The company has been launched by Fantastic Services. It already offers household services such as cleaning, gardening, pest control and handyman work.

Managing director Rune Sovndahl, said: "January is widely acknowledged to be break-up season.

"Early in 2013 our call centres were inundated with requests from people who had ended their relationships and wanted to move out fast.

"Many of them mentioned not wanting to have to face their former partner for fear of triggering another round of painful conversation or argument."

Sovndahl added: "Today's technology means if a customer doesn't want to physically be at the property, they can give our team directions from anywhere in the world.

"Our teams are on hand when others aren't – even at 3am! We hope the service will help people to move on – both in their relationships, and literally."

Move on Movers is now available, 24/7, across the south east.

For a demonstration of the service, view the video at http://youtu.be/kMN8xyfa Kag

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Obituary Notice

JAMES PAUL HAMILTON 'JIMMY'
Aged 33 died at Harefield Hospital on 8th January. A much loved Son, Brother and Uncle who will be sadly missed. Funeral to be held at Putney Vale Crematorium on 23rd January at 1.40pm. Flowers welcome or donations to C.R.Y-Cardiac Risk In The Young c/o Frederick W Paine, 71 Walton Road, E. Molesey KT8 0DP 020 8979 5343

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2. The restrictions shall only apply during such times and to such an extent as indicated by the placing of appropriate signs.
3. Nothing in the Order will apply to: -
   a) anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform;
   b) any person or vehicle engaged in the execution of the said works;
   c) any vehicle being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes.
4. The alternative route for vehicles affected by this closure will be via West Barnes Lane, Claremont Avenue, Burlington Road and West Barnes Lane and vice versa.
5. The Order shall come into force on 27th January 2014 and it is expected that the works will take 4 nights, between 23.30 and 06.00 nightly. The Order shall remain in force for 1 month to be re-introduced should further works be required.

Dated this the 16th January 2014.

Chris Lee
Director of Environment and Regeneration
London Borough of Merton

Merton Civic Centre
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All applicants will be required to undertake an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Check. Kisimul Group Ltd is an equal opportunities employer.
Kisimul is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of adults and expects all staff to share this commitment.

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The closing date for application forms is by 5pm on Friday 31 January 2014, quoting reference number 1401EXT.

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PERFECT INGREDIENTS Secure, supportive and outgoing Farnborough woman, 38, 5'9'', divorced, would like to find an organised, endearing guy, for friendship and maybe more in the future. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 156001 or send a text to 80360**

HIDDEN DEPTHS Loyal, faithful, outgoing black lady, 38, living in London, seeking a white man, who is honest, faithful and caring, for a loving relationship and to eventually settle down with. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 113149**

SEEING IS BELIEVING Affectionate, loving and outgoing Esher woman, 38, 5'6'', single mum, professional, looking for an efficient, sociable male, to share the future together. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 127814 or send a text to 80360**

MISS ME MISS OUT Loving, down to earth female, 41, 5'3'', brown curly hair, divorcee, enjoys most things, looking for my soul mate. Walton-On-Thames. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 101283 or send a text to 80360**

ONE STEP CLOSER Practical, old-fashioned, amenable, black Kingston Upon Thames female, 41, slim build, seeking a peaceful, hard-working male, for love and future happiness. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 135859**

A FUTURE FILLED WITH LAUGHTER Chatty, genuine, 42 year old London female. Enjoys trips to the cinema, wine bars and cycling. Looking for an honest, fun guy to get to know and hopefully develop into a relationship. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 162035 or send a text to 80360**

IT COULD BE FUN Slim, attractive, elegant Asian lady, 44, enjoys travel, socialising, keeping fit, seeks a similar Asian guy, 44-55, for friendship and love. Surrey. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 138920**

QUIET AND HAPPY Professional, quiet, charming Croydon woman, 44, 5'2'', blonde hair, enjoys cosy nights in, would like to meet a kind gentleman, to care for each other and share a happy future together. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 148591 or send a text to 80360**

IT COULD BE FOREVER Bubbly and bright Carshalton female, 46, 5'2'', slim build, would like to meet an honest, thoughtful and caring man, age 40-45, to share special moments and lasting happiness. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 156459 or send a text to 80360**

FRESH APPROACH TO LIFE Attractive, friendly Surrey female, 49, 5'8'', dark hair, green eyes, slim build, loves animals, walks, current affairs, seeking a tall, attractive, educated male, for a lasting relationship. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 141840**

EXPRESS YOURSELF Walton-On-Thames female, 49, 5'8'', green eyes, slim build, enjoys eating in and out, cinema, country walks, travel, wltm an attractive man, 45-55, for a love, lasting relationship. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 140785**

A CURIOUS FEELING Tender, old-fashioned and thoughtful Walton-On-Thames woman, 49, would like to find an independent, caring male, for good times and great company. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 142253**

ALL THIS AND MORE Single, fun-loving SW London woman, 50, outgoing, smart, attractive, enjoys many interests, from Art to beaches, seeking a similar guy, confident, fun & intelligent, for good times and more. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 117856**

FOLLOW THE DREAM Very young-looking, caring Surrey female, 50, N/S, petite, blonde, gsoh, likes sports & animals, wltm a genuine, easygoing, white male, 39-45, into sports, N/S, for friendship & maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 132871**

LIFE'S TO BE SHARED Kind, loving Tadworth lady, 51, 5'4'', slim build, enjoys music, reading, walks and all that life has to offer, looking for a genuine and honest guy, with a GSOH, for love, fun and happiness. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 142340 or send a text to 80360**

ROAD TO HAPPINESS Attractive, intelligent Asian lady, 51, living in London, slim build, young looking, enjoys socialising, seeking a genuine, well educated, professional man, 45-55, for friendship and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 111493**

HEART FULL OF LOVE Tactile, passionate, divorced woman, 52, brown hair and eyes, good sense of humour, likes travel, music, cars and cooking, would like to meet a romantic man to share life with. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 115836**

CUDDLE UP CLOSE Shy and quiet female, 53, own home, searching for a hard-working, honest and decent man, for love and happiness. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 137198 or send a text to 80360**

IRISH EYES Attractive intelligent and a bit reserved 53 year old lady looking to find a handsome, nice, caring gentleman 58-66 for company and conversation. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 873625**

X FACTOR Attractive black female, 56, slim, sensual, professional, looking to meet an attractive male, who is generous, loving and fun. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 151984 or send a text to 80360**

ARE YOU THE 1? Honest, caring, Caribbean female, 56, 5'5'', medium build, enjoys travelling and the cinema, would like to meet a sincere, romantic, trustworthy man, for a long term relationship. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 153471 or send a text to 80360**

SHARE EACH OTHERS COMPANY Outgoing, thoughtful, passionate Tadworth woman, 57, likes most things, travel, reading, theatre, driving, cooking, would like to meet a man 40-45 to share interests together. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 115891**

POTENTIAL SOUL MATE Fun, outgoing, attractive Chessington lady, 58, slim build, enjoys music, walks and cycling, seeking a genuine, well-educated, professional male, with GSOH, for a lasting relationship. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 156900 or send a text to 80360**

BEING GENUINE Genuine, attractive, slimmish Croydon female, 61, 5'8'', auburn hair, youthful, loves classical music, theatre, France and much more, looking for a tall, nons-moking gent, for a lasting relationship. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 468587 or send a text to 80360**

LET'S FALL IN LOVE Attractive, professional and solvent lady, 61, 5'7'', dark hair and brown eyes, likes arts, antiques, theatre, cinema, music and dining out, searching for a similar, genuine man for companionship. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 119593 or send a text to 80360**

HOPING FOR THE BEST Mixed race Harrow female, 61, looking for an Asian man, for friendship and more. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 155644 or send a text to 80360**

PURE INTENTIONS Passionate Tadworth lady, 62, likes travel, cooking, dancing and cinema, seeking an lively chap, 45-50, for company and more. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 124071**

LET'S DANCE! Blonde, outgoing Epsom woman, 63, blue eyes, active, 5'2'', likes dancing, gardening, meals out, socialising and adventure, seeking a similar gentleman, fit, funny and genuine, for company. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 122940**

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THAT'S AMORE Kind, genuine Richmond lady, 64, likes days out to the coast, dining out, gardening, the cinema and generally socialising, N/S, looking for a similar man, for companionship and love. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 158495 or send a text to 80360**

ENJOY GOOD TIMES Young-at-heart female, 64, dark hair, from Thames Ditton, loves 60s music, animals and reading, would like to meet a sociable, genuine chap, for companionship and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 107078**

LET THE SUN SHINE IN Curvy, cuddly Kingston lady, 65, GSOH, kind, caring, likes cinema, meals out, places of interest and the coast, would like to meet a similar man, sociable, fun and honest, for company and more. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 126146 or send a text to 80360**

YOU MIGHT BE LUCKY Outgoing, brown-eyed Surbiton lady, 66, long dark hair, likes cooking, eating out, dancing and holidays abroad, seeking a nice gent, for companionship and lots more. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 461376**

GENERALLY SPEAKING Music mad, genuine E.London guy, 25, 5'11'', fit, loyal, enjoys most music, football, gym, concerts and films, searching for a bubbly and honest woman, for love and good times. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 118595**

PRINCE CHARMING Intelligent, funny, attractive Guildford man, 36, great conversationalist, plays golf, kind and caring. Are you a princess looking for your prince? **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 119408 or send a text to 80360**

CALL ME Black Croydon gent, 42, medium build, 6'1'', seeking a kind-hearted, honest female, for friendship and a lasting romantic relationship. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 153138 or send a text to 80360**

SEEKING MY SOULMATE Young-at-heart, lively and sincere Sutton male, 42, enjoys the simple things in life, looking for a like minded woman, for future happiness and hopefully lasting love. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 108657**

THE COMMITTED KIND Kind, hard-working and sensible South Croydon male, 46, would like to meet a positive, truthful girl, for fun and a little romance. Loves travelling, cultural days out, nice food & wine at night! **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 153035 or send a text to 80360**

MAKE EACH MOMENT SPECIAL Affectionate Isleworth male, 46, 6'2'', athletic, non-smoker, own home, enjoys swimming, walks, pubs, restaurants and travel, seeks chatty, slim female, for a lasting relationship. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 103086**

COMBINE WITH ME Honest, genuine Wallington male, 47, good sense of humour, divorced, would like to meet a similar female, for friendship & possibly a lasting relationship. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 159369 or send a text to 80360**

ROMANTIC TIMES Slim, active, honest Richmond male, short brown hair, enjoys running, meals out, fishing, walks in the park and social drinks, would like to meet a reliable, caring woman, for romance and happy times. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 159617 or send a text to 80360**

RECIPE FOR ROMANCE Easygoing Surbiton male, 49, 6'2'', fair hair, brown eyes, medium, loves pubs, wine bars, country walks, wltm a genuine, friendly female, for good times leading to more. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 115665 or send a text to 80360**

CLOSE TO YOU Blue-eyed Surrey male, 49, 6'2'', med build, loves cooking, wine bars and much more, seeks a like-minded, loving woman, to share the future. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 102483**

GOOD FUN TO BE WITH Good-looking Purley male, 50, 5'11'', medium-build, many interests, seeking an attractive, curvy female, for love and good times. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 127258 or send a text to 80360**

A HEART FULL OF LOVE Old fashioned, romantic male, 50, 5'7'', loving and cuddly, GSOH, enjoys most things in life, would like to share it with a nice, happy, affectionate lady, for a long term relationship. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 112757**

TREAT YOU LIKE A PRINCESS Romantic and respectful London male, 52, 5'9'', slim build, would like to meet a slim, genuine and loving female, to share a happy life together. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 155062 or send a text to 80360**

LIVING LIFE Kind, laid back Epsom male, 54, 5'8'', professional, blue eyes, would like to meet an attractive, slim female, age 43-54, for fun times and more. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 158783 or send a text to 80360**

LET'S START NOW Confident, well-travelled Kingston male, 56, 5'11'', ex rugby player, own house/car, likes pubs, restaurants, travelling, looking for an attractive, N/S female, 46-56. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 128579 or send a text to 80360**

LIFE IS GOOD Friendly Surrey male, 58, 5'11'', slim build, would like to meet a nice, friendly female, of a similar age, for romance and good company. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 148601 or send a text to 80360**

YOUNG HEART, YOUNG MIND Fit, fun-loving Epsom gent, 59, 6ft, medium build, youthful outlook on life, looking for a like-minded, feminine lady, with GSOH, for a lasting relationship. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 148813**

MUST HAVE HAPPINESS Widowed, professional Richmond male, 59, likes the theatre, cinema, pubs and restaurants, looking for an attractive, bubbly and caring female, for a long term relationship. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 106284**

LOOK AFTER EACH OTHER Easygoing, upfront Warlingham gent, 59, own house and car, would like to meet a friendly female, any race, to enjoy life with. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 153954 or send a text to 80360**

FINALLY FOUND YOU Slim, attractive, quiet Molesey male, 61, 5'10'', GSOH, widower, likes the cinema, nature, travel and music, would like to meet a tactile, loving, slim lady, for a long term relationship. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 157098 or send a text to 80360**

RELAXED RELATIONSHIP Retired black lady, 64, 5'6'', looking for a non-smoking gent, who enjoys days out, meals together, having a laugh and socialising. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 143424**

BEST THINGS IN LIFE Divorced Caterham guy, 65, N/S, 5'11'', easygoing and considerate, enjoys cooking, theatre, sport, dining and travel, seeking a bubbly, positive and caring lady, for laughs & enjoying life. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 112226**

LOVE IS OUT THERE Presentable, young-at-heart, solvent Walton male, 65, 6ft, slim build, N/S, retired, GSOH, seeking a feminine, modern lady, for friendship and hopefully a loving relationship. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 159931 or send a text to 80360**

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IT COULD BE FOREVER Single chap, 60, 5'11'', medium build, from Redhill, likes the simple things in life, looking for an easygoing and loving female, for companionship and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 109068 or send a text to 80360**

IRISH EYES ARE SMILING Easygoing Irish male, 60, 5'8'', medium build, N/S, living in Wimbledon, likes rock music, cars and pub lunches, would like to meet a friendly woman, to share life with. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 157185 or send a text to 80360**

DROP ME A LINE Youthful Croydon chap, 61, slim build, 5'8'', GSOH, enjoys pubs, countryside, fishing, modern and 60s music, seeking a similar outgoing and warm female, for friendship and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 112227**

SOLID AS A ROCK Charming Irish male, 61, living in Croydon, enjoys rugby, golf, tennis and more, searching for a nice, sociable lady, 40-60, to share the best things in life. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 111401 or send a text to 80360**

ARE YOU OUT THERE? Irishman living in London, 61, 5'6'', painter and decorator, looking for a black lady, 5'6'', slim-build, 45-55, with a good sense of humour. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 126309**

INTRODUCE ME TO SOMETHING NEW Professional, solvent Surrey chap, 61, good sense of humour, varied interests, looking for a sincere female, 40-60, for love, romance and plenty of happiness. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 104782**

TAKE YOU BY THE HAND Kind, caring and reliable Esher man, 65, 5'7'', medium build, likes day trips on the canal boats and classic cars, would like to meet a fun-loving woman, to spend quality time together. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 156322 or send a text to 80360**

LET'S SEE WHERE IT GOES Laid-back, thoughtful, widowed Sutton male, 67, 5'10'', enjoys gardening, golfing and holidays abroad, searching for female, to share good times and happiness. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 147191**

CLASSIC GENT Friendly, sociable, smart Carshalton man, 73, own car, enjoys all types of music and occasional drinks at the pub, would like to meet a modern lady, between 60-70, for good conversation and more. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 150220 or send a text to 80360**

GET ON THAT PHONE! Smart, tactile, loyal 70s Carshalton gent, likes pub lunches, dancing, drives, music and more, wltm attractive, trendy lady, with old fashioned values. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 135054**

NOT QUITE PAST IT! Retired, professional Hampton male, 75, GSOH, solvent, N/S, enjoys gardening, cooking, walks and meals in or out, searching for a similar female, positive with GSOH, for company and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 127526 or send a text to 80360**

HAPPINESS INTO YOUR LIFE Friendly, easygoing, genuine Dorking male, 76, likes country and 60s music, pub lunches and animals, would like to meet an attractive, trendy woman, age 60-70, for fun, friendship and more. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 157490 or send a text to 80360**

LOOKING FOR ANOTHER Emotional, tidy and sensitive Walton-On-Thames girl, 39, 5'11'', blonde hair, curvy build, non smoker, just looking to meet a reserved, original woman, 28-50, for friendship and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 161212 or send a text to 80360**

FRIENDSHIP ONLY Straight, decent, witty London mother, 50, N/S, loves dancing, wine bars, the cinema and watching sports, seeking a like-minded female, for friendship and days out. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 148845 or send a text to 80360**

HAPPINESS SHARED Straight, divorced Bexleyheath female, 55, looking for another lady, for friendship, go out with, pubs, shopping, social drink and have fun. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 139054**

LOOKING FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU Fit, tall, genuine Leatherhead male, 51, bi-sexual, divorced, 6ft, polite, sincere, would like to meet a like-minded male, intelligent and active, for fun and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 132398**

GENUINE YOU Bi male, 63, would like to meet similar male for fun and friendship. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 152831 or send a text to 80360**

CHEER ME UP Friendly, bisexual Hampton man, 64, enjoys social drinks with friends and days out, would like to meet a similar man, for fun times, cosy evenings in together and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 150356 or send a text to 80360**

LASTING FUN Fit, easy going, sincere London man, 66, 6'1'', would like to meet a like-minded male, for friendship, fun times and more. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 148876**

REAL LOVING Smart, honest CD male, 68, 5'7'', 11st, living in Walton-On-Thames, searching for a nice, sociable and caring guy, for fun times, friendship and hopefully leading to more. **Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 112816**

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FOR schoolchildren who grew up in the 1960s and 70s, Valerie Singleton OBE was one of the most recognisable faces on television. A host of Blue Peter, she made her debut in 1962 and was an ever present for the next 10 years. On leaving the programme she joined the presenters on Nationwide and then Tonight on the BBC. She hosted PM on Radio 4 and also fronted BBC 2's The Money Programme. She is now a director of Simplicity Computers, a company that has designed its own software called the Envelope which makes using a computer easy. For details visit www.simplicitycomputers.co.uk.

What was your first car?
My first car was a Morris 1000 convertible with the split screen. I don't remember what I paid for it. I bought it from friends of my parents so probably not much. I sold it for about £500 after driving down through the then Yugoslavia in 1965 and back through Italy. But my next two cars were my best ever cars. White MGB convertibles. Can still reel off both their licence numbers.

How many times did it take to pass your test?
I passed my test first time. Took lessons with BSM in the Fulham Road but they were over quite a while as I was working in between and had to stop to go off and be an actress. I can't remember which car I learnt in; it was a long time ago.

Who would be your ideal fantasy passenger and where would you go?
John Newcombe the tennis player – when he was young. Gorgeous. Today? Kevin Bacon and I think I would like to drive through Italy but then as I am with Kevin Bacon it had better be America and I will let him decide, but I insist on the Florida Keys in the journey.

What is your dream car?
I don't have a dream car at the moment, they change so often. But it would have to be a convertible and rather sexy and either white or a lovely soft turquoise blue – never racing green, black, orange or red.

How would you describe your driving style?
Good. I don't drive madly fast, not around the lanes I live in now! But I am not a slowcoach either. I think I am quick to react and keep my eyes on what is happening around.

What is playing on your in-car iPod or CD player at the moment?
The last CD I played, yesterday, was a Daily Mail handout. Simply Red Live in Cuba. Great. I like all sorts of different music. I just bought the latest Rod Stewart, but mostly I listen to Radio 4 or BBC Five Live.

What do you drive now?
What I call 'my late life crisis' – a pretty green BMW Z3 – convertible of course.

Drivingthenews

BATTLE OF THE BEST

The seven cars that will battle it out to become European Car of the Year (ECOTY) 2014 have been announced.

Decided on by a jury of 53 motoring journalists from across Europe, the shortlists is made up of the BMW i3, Citroen C4 Picasso, Mazda 3, Mercedes S-Class, Peugeot 308, Skoda Octavia and Tesla Model S.

This is the first time the ECOTY shortlist of contenders has included two electric vehicles with the BMW i3 and Tesla Model S.

The judges will now drive all seven contenders ahead of making their decision on the overall winner, announced at the Geneva Motor Show at the beginning of March. Whichever car wins, it will take over from the 2013 winner, the Volkswagen Golf, pictured.

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*Rapid Spaceback S 1.2 TSI 86PS starts from £14,340 OTR. Model shown is ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback 1.2 TSI 105PS SE with optional Corrida Red paint, Sunset glass and Style pack (includes panoramic roof, extended tailgate glass, black door mirrors, black cornering front fog lights and black rear lights). Model shown also features optional accessory alloy wheels. Model shown is not UK spec.
Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the ŠKODA Rapid range: Urban 38.2 (7.4) to 62.8 (4.5); Extra Urban 58.9 (4.8) to 83.1 (3.4); Combined 48.7 (5.8) to 74.3 (3.8). CO_2 emissions for the new ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback 134 to 99 g/km. Standard EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

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12. We shall not be liable if our publishing activities are restricted or prevented by any law, act or event beyond our reasonable control (including, for example, industrial dispute). In such case, the advertiser shall accept publication when available or otherwise may cancel the order by written notice and pay only for work done and materials used.

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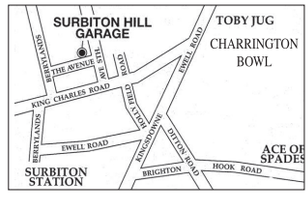

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McNaught-Barrington signs off in style

Guest star Rufus McNaught-Barrington, *right*, took his competition haul to 34 goals in eight games as Surbiton secured the Maxinutrition Hockey Fives Division One indoor title at the weekend.

They beat Old Loughtonians 10-4 and Brooklands Manchester University by the same score on Saturday, before defeating Cannock 9-6 and Havant 20-5 to return to the Premier Division in style.

Welsh international McNaught-Barrington, who scored 15 goals last week, returns to Belgium club Gantoise later this month.

More sport: kingstonguardian.co.uk

Hopeful: Surbiton's Madeleine Long

Way to go for FutureStars

The Lawn Tennis Association's head of men's tennis Leon Smith has warned six Kingston youngsters they are only at the start of a long journey to the top.

New Malden's Krisnaa Muhunthakumar, 12, Tanysha Dissanayake, 13, and Jasmine Amber Asghar, 17, Kingston's Oriana Parkins-Godwin, 10, Surbiton's Madeleine Long, 10 and Chessington's Luke Stevenson, 16, have been selected to be part of the LTA's 2014 Aegon FutureStars programme.

The players are among a group of 424 emerging stars identified from across the country who will now receive added financial and coaching support from the game's governing body.

Smith said: "There's obviously a long way to go for these players, but we hope with the right support these players are given the best possible chance of reaching their potential."

Sunday best

Drama: (Clockwise from top) Daniel Sweeney celebrates his winner on Sunday; captain Sam Page finds his own net for the opening goal; Charlie Knight makes a break; and, Ks salute Andre McCollin's leveller SP82218

by TAIMOUR LAY
sports@london.newsquest.co.uk

Kingstonian assistant coach Martin Tyler hailed Sunday's 2-1 derby triumph over promotion rivals Duwlich Hamlets as his the side's best result of the season.

Ks came from 1-0 to win in front of 591 fans – the highest league gate at Kingsmeadow in over three years – thanks to substitute Daniel Sweeney's late strike.

Two weeks ago, the 19-year-old came off the bench, gave the ball away and watched in horror as Harrow Borough equalised to snatch a 2-2 draw.

But his introduction on Sunday brought three Ryman Premier League points, when he curled home from the edge of the box to add to Andre McCollin's equaliser.

"It's amazing and it's great for Dan," said Tyler.

"He was very hurt by what happened [against Harrow]. He took responsibility for it, and even before he scored, he did a terrific job.

"He was heartbroken after Harrow, but now he's the star of the show and won us the game."

● See this week's Surrey Comet for an interview with Danny Sweeney.

SPORTS*brief*

HOCKEY: Surbiton Ladies finished third in the Maxinutrition Hockey Fives Division One for the second season running. Surbiton lost 6-5 to Bristol Firebrands and 6-4 to Buckingham, and beat Brooklands Poynton 6-3 and Wakefield 8-3 last week. Hopes of promotion ended on Saturday after Clifton snatched a 4-4 draw to make wins over Chelmsford (8-1) and Sevenoaks (7-2) worthless ahead of a 6-2 defeat to the University of Birmingham in Sunday's final match.

RUGBY UNION: KCS Old Boys made it 13 wins from 13 London Division Three South West matches, but slipped three points behind league leaders Farnham in the table on Saturday. KCS beat Old Cranleighans 15-8, while their title rivals claimed a bonus point win at London Exiles. The Old Boys host Sandown & Shanklin this week.

FOOTBALL: Corinthian Casuals face a crunch relegation clash at Redhill this weekend after losing 2-0 at home to Burgess Hill Town on Saturday to slip eight points adrift of safety at the foot of the table.

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